

1 PUBLIC COMMENT BY TOM CASPERSON

2 Good evening. I'm Tom Casperson. I'm the State
3 Senator for the 38th Senate District, which is 13 of the 15
4 U.P. Counties. I'm here tonight to support this project and
5 ask for your support. I'm asking that you follow the
6 support or what you're hearing from the people. I just want
7 to share with you -- some of you may know it already, but
8 some might not. There are letters that I know were given to
9 the EPA from the Senate Majority Leader's office. It was
10 signed by a super majority of senators from the State of
11 Michigan. There was also a letter signed by the Speaker of
12 the House, which was signed by a super majority of the House
13 members from the State of Michigan. You've just heard from
14 the administration, and I think there's plenty of other
15 letters from our local officials, from the State on down,
16 all in support of this project, so clearly we have the
17 support of the people to move forward on this thing. And
18 so --

19 MS. HYDE: Excuse me. People, I ask that we have
20 a respectful meeting, and we need to actually allow folks to
21 make their comments, otherwise not everyone will be able to
22 speak tonight. So please respect all of the speakers.

23 MR. CASPERSON: Thank you. Because the elected
24 officials do have to answer to the people, and it's coming
25 up in November. And at the end of the day, I've been

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1 traveling the Upper Peninsula and talking to many groups,
2 not as big as this one, but a lot of groups, and there has
3 been enormous support for this project. We want to see this
4 move forward. I would ask also for a balance, and I didn't
5 see it tonight, so I'm asking for it now. And the balance
6 is the alternative routes that you mentioned, you looked at
7 the difference in the wetlands and the equations that came
8 out. And it moved fast enough and I couldn't get the
9 numbers quick enough, but I'm sure it could be figured out.
10 We put a price on wetlands because the other alternative
11 routes were more expensive to build, versus the other one
12 for the savings of, I think, seven to eight acres of
13 wetlands before the first and the second one. So if you
14 take the difference, that will give you a price of what
15 we're saying wetlands is worth, an acre of wetlands, so you
16 have that. I would like to see us also balance out the air
17 quality that was mentioned with the trucks traveling back
18 and forth. Whenever we're dealing with, say, a power plant,
19 air quality becomes the most important thing on the planet.
20 That's fine. Then let's add that into this equation and
21 let's take a look at how much the air quality is going to be
22 affected by this, just to simply get a balance. And I don't
23 tell you that it's going to be an equal -- equal wash, but I
24 think you need to have the balance. You need to share that
25 information with the public so that they can make an

1 informed decision. We didn't see that. I think the cost --
2 air quality is important, and we heard a gentleman talk
3 about the safety going around through Marquette. There's a
4 cost to that, too. And I think all those things need to be
5 weighed in. And one thing I want to leave you with is
6 Michigan is unique. I think there's only two states that
7 have this relationship, and that's where the DEQ takes the
8 lead in Michigan. So if the DEQ ultimately permits this
9 project, I would hope that the EPA would stay with that and
10 support that decision, as they have for many other issues
11 that the DEQ has come down with throughout the State of
12 Michigan for many years. So please take all those things
13 into consideration. Please approve this project. We need
14 the jobs. Thank you.

15 MS. POPE: Matt Huuki, Jim Iwanicki, Deb Pellow
16 and Dave Hall.

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18 PUBLIC COMMENT BY MATT HUUKI

19 I'd just like to say thank you for having the meeting
20 here. A lot of the concerns have already been addressed by
21 the prior speakers. I come here from the 110th District,
22 Matt Huuki, and so with that, I want to give the support
23 from the 110th District, and I appreciate you putting that
24 into the permanent record. Thank you.